

August 30, 1946

Mr. Joshua Lederberg
Osborn Botanical Laboratory
Yale University
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Mr. Lederberg:

I was very glad to receive your interesting letter and to hear about the new evidence for sexual phase in *E. Coli*. I should certainly appreciate having a note from you once in a while keeping me up to date on your latest discoveries.

Do you remember the arrangement I made with Dr. Dienes at C.S.H.? He promised to send me his data so that I can try to find out whether the "mating types" in his bacteria follow a breeding system comparable to any other system known in lower organisms. I sent him a reminder after I returned to Bloomington but have heard nothing further from him. Do you know whether anyone has seen his data?

The questions you raise about the differentiation of mating types in *Paramecium bursaria* is easy to answer. I have seen no paper on this since Jennings' paper of 1942. There is, of course, a superficial resemblance to the problem of phase variation as Kimball suggests. How deep the analogy goes, however, I cannot even guess because I lack the detailed knowledge of the situation in bacteria on which to base a sound judgment.

So far as the serological aspects of mating types are concerned, you now have at Yale a man who knows as much about this as anyone, and I strongly urge you to get in touch with him. This is Dr. C. B. Metz who spent last year here as a National Research Fellow and who is starting in now as an Instructor in the Osborn Zoological Laboratory. I think you will find he has some very interesting things to tell you.

Cordially yours,

T. M. Sonneborn

Sonneborn mss. II
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